

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A radiopharmaceutical pig device that enables separation of two pig sections from each other without any need to manually grasp one while moving the other to effect the separation, comprising:

two pig sections engaged with each other in an engaged condition, the two pig sections being configured to accommodate and enclose radiopharmaceutical contents while the two pig sections are in the engaged condition, the two pig sections being configured to separate from each other in response to one of the pig sections being moved away from the other; and

two complementary engaging elements that engage each other, one of the complementary engaging elements being integrally formed with one of the two pig sections, the other of the complementary engaging elements being held stationary and configured to hold stationary the one of the complementary engaging elements while the two complementary engaging elements are engaged and permit separation of the two pig sections from each other in response to moving the other of the two pig sections away from the one of the two pig sections, but without any need to manually grasp the one of the two pig sections to effect the separation.

2. The radiopharmaceutical pig device of claim 1, wherein the complementary configurations comprise a multiple-sided ring and a multiple-sided recess or indentation.
3. The radiopharmaceutical pig device of claim 2, in combination with a separate element, wherein the other of the two complementary elements being integral with the separate element, the separate element being selected from a group consisting of a shipping container that is sized to accommodate insertion of the two pig sections, a retention brace, an L-block radiation shield and a counter top.
4. The radiopharmaceutical pig device of claim 1 in combination with a pig retention brace and an L-block radiation shield, the pig retention brace having the other of the complementary engaging elements and being secured to the L-block radiation shield.
5. The radiopharmaceutical pig device of claim 1, wherein each of the two pig sections have a respective end portion having a thickness and a sidewall portion adjacent the end portion, the thickness of each of the end portions being thicker than that of each of the sidewall portions.
6. A method of separating two pig sections of a radiopharmaceutical pig device from each other without any need to manually grasp one while moving the other to effect the separation, comprising

engaging two pig sections with each other in an engaged condition;

accommodating and enclosing radiopharmaceutical contents between the two pig sections while the two pig sections are in the engaged condition, the two pig sections being configured to separate from each other in response to one of the pig sections being moved away from the other;

engaging two complementary engaging elements with each other, one of the complementary engaging elements being integrally formed with one of the two pig sections;

holding stationary the other of the complementary engaging elements and thereby holding stationary the one of the complementary engaging elements while the two complementary engaging elements are engaged; and

separating the two pig sections from each other in response to moving the other of the two pig sections away from the one of the two pig sections, but without any need to manually grasp the one of the two pig sections to effect separation.

7. A method as in claim 6, wherein the holding stationary includes fixing a separate element against movement, the separate element having the other complementary engaging element, the separate element being selected from a group consisting of a shipping container that is sized to accommodate insertion of the two pig sections, a retention brace, an L-block radiation shield and a counter top.

8. A method as in claim 6, wherein the holding stationary includes securing a pig retention brace to an L-block radiation shield, the pig retention brace having the other of the complementary engaging configurations.
9. A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing each of the two pig sections with end portions whose thickness is greater than that of portions of sidewalls adjacent the end portions.

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